

Los Angeles County
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February 9, 2010

TO: Each Supervisor

FROM: John F. Schunhoff, Ph.D. 
Interim Director

SUBJECT: **IMPACT OF RELEASE OF INMATES FROM STATE PRISONS
ON DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES (DHS)
(Agenda Item No. 44, February 9, 2010)**

At your Board's February 8, 2010 meeting, Supervisor Antonovich requested the Chief Executive Officer, in collaboration with the Director of Mental Health, Interim Director of Health Services and the Sheriff, to provide weekly status reports beginning at the Board meeting of February 9, 2010 on the following: the fiscal impact on health and mental services being provided to patients resulting from the early release of inmates from State hospitals; the impact these additional services will have on the regular law-abiding clientele in mental health facilities and hospital emergency rooms; and an estimated cost that departments may incur for the provision of additional personnel and security enhancement.

CURRENT WORKLOAD AND EXPENDITURE LEVELS

Since 2006, DHS facilities have admitted at least 25¹ individuals from the State prison system, with a median length of stay of 29 days. The estimated cost of care for these individuals during calendar year 2009 was \$1.82 million. During this time period some individuals were also referred to DHS that did not require placement.

PROJECTED WORKLOAD AND EXPENDITURE LEVELS

At this time there is insufficient information to determine how many additional individuals may be released to Los Angeles County health facilities from State prisons or State hospitals, and what level of care they may require upon arrival. No additional information has been provided by the State. Therefore, it is not currently possible to develop estimates of the fiscal or service impacts of State plans to release additional individuals.

As we receive further information, we will keep your Board apprised of significant developments. If you have any questions, or need further information, please contact me or Dr. Robert Splawn at 213-240-8344.

c: Chief Executive Office
County Counsel
Executive Office, Board of Supervisors
Department of Mental Health
Sheriff's Department

¹ Tracking began in 2006. Actual number may be higher. Does not include admissions to Ingleside facility.